

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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★ Special Edition ★

## 300 Million

Our nation's population is expected to reach 300 million the later part of this year. To help spotlight this occasion, the Census Bureau steps back in time by comparing contemporary life and statistics to those in the time periods in which the nation reached other noteworthy population milestones — in 1967 (when the population reached 200 million) and in the year 1915 (when it reached 100 million). America, how you have grown and changed.

**Note:** If data are not available for the specific year highlighted, we have provided data available closest to that year.

### President

**2006:** George W. Bush

**1967:** Lyndon B. Johnson

**1915:** Woodrow Wilson

### Price of a new home

**2006:** \$290,600

**1967:** \$24,600 (\$149,147 in 2006 dollars)

**1915:** \$3,200 (\$64,158 in 2006 dollars)

### Cost for a gallon of regular gas

**2006:** \$3.04 (as of Aug. 7)

**1967:** 33 cents (\$2.00 in 2006 dollars)

**1915:** 25 cents (\$5.01 in 2006 dollars)

### Price of milk

**2006:** \$3.00 gallon

**1967:** \$1.03 gallon (\$6.24 in 2006 dollars)

**1915:** \$ .36 gallon (\$7.22 in 2006 dollars)

### Cost of a first-class stamp

**2006:** 39 cents

**1967:** 5 cents

**1915:** 2 cents

## Notable Events

**2006:** The 20th Winter Olympic Games take place in Turin, Italy.

**1967:** Dr. Christiaan Bernard performs the first heart transplant; the first Super Bowl is played.

**1915:** World War I continues in Europe.

## Pop Culture

**2006:** iPods and “American Idol” reign supreme and cell phones are the rage.

**1967:** Color TV is the rage. “The Lucy Show,” “Andy Griffith” and “Gomer Pyle” are the top-rated television shows.

**1915:** The “Model T” and silent movies are the rage. Raggedy Ann, aspirin in tablet form and processed cheese are introduced. The milk carton is invented.

## World Population

**2006:** 6.5 billion

**1967:** 3.5 billion

**1915:** 1.8 billion

(Sources: World Population Clock at <<http://www.census.gov/>> Data pertain to 2006.

<<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/worldpop.html>> Data pertain to 1967.

<<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/worldhis.html>> Data pertain to 1910.)

## Tying the Knot

Median age at first marriage for men and women, respectively.

**2006:** 27.1 and 25.8

**1967:** 23.1 and 20.6

**1915:** 25.1 and 21.6

<[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families\\_households/006840.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/006840.html)> Data pertain to 2005.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>> Data pertain to 1967 and 1910.

## Coming to America

**2006:** 34.3 million

Number of foreign-born people. They comprise 12 percent of the total population. Mexico is the leading country of origin. (Source: American FactFinder) Data pertain to 2004.

**1967:** 9.7 million

Number of foreign-born people. They comprised 5 percent of the total population. Italy was the leading country of origin.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/cps2000.html>> Data pertain to 1960.

**1915:** 13.5 million

Number of foreign-born people. They comprised 15 percent of the total population. Germany was the leading country of origin. Data pertain to 1910. (Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*)

## **From Desert Outpost to Major Metropolis**

The growth of Phoenix symbolizes the nation's movement South and West.

**2006:** 1.5 million

Population of Phoenix, making it the sixth most populous city. Data pertain to 2005.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/007001.html>>

**1967:** 439,170

Population of Phoenix, making it the 29<sup>th</sup> most populous city. Data pertain to 1960.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0027.html>>

**1915:** 11,134

Population of Phoenix. It was not among the 100 most populous cities. Data pertain to 1910.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0027.html>>

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0076.html>>

## **The Rise of the Sunshine State**

Since 1915, Florida has been transformed from almost an afterthought to our nation's fourth most populous state.

**2006:** 17.8 million

**1967:** 6.2 million

**1915:** 923 thousand

(Sources: <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/006142.html>> Data pertain to 2005. Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007*; data pertain to 1967 and 1915.)

## **Our Incredible Shrinking Households**

Average household size.

**2006:** 2.6 people

**1967:** 3.3 people

**1915:** 4.5 people

<[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families\\_households/006840.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/006840.html)> Data pertain to 2005.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>> Data pertain to 1967.

<[http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995\\_2000.html](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995_2000.html)>, 1999 edition, Table 1419. Data pertain to 1910.

## **Tuberculosis**

Death rate from this disease per 100,000 population.

**2006:** 0.2

**1967:** 3.5

**1915:** 140.1

(Sources: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007*; data pertain to 2003 and 1967. <[http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995\\_2000.html](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995_2000.html)>, 1999 edition, Table 1420. Data pertain to 1915.)

## **Homeownership . . . the American Dream**

Percentage of the nation's householders who owned the home in which they lived.

**2006:** 68.9%

**1967:** 63.6%

**1915:** 45.9%

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/annual05/ann05t12.html>> Data pertain to 2005 and 1967. <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/census/historic/owner.html>> Data pertain to 1910.

## **Our Aging Nation**

Number of people age 65 and older.

**2006:** 36.8 million

**1967:** 19.1 million

**1915:** 4.5 million

<<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2005-sa.html>> Data pertain to 2005.  
<<http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/pre-1980/PE-11.html>> Data pertain to 1967 and 1915.

## **Median Age of the Population**

**2006:** 36.2

**1967:** 29.5

**1915:** 24.1

<<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2005-sa.html>> Data pertain to 2005.  
<<http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/phc-t9/tab07.txt>> Data pertain to 1960 and 1910.

## **Living Longer**

Life expectancy at birth.

**2006:** 77.8 years

**1967:** 70.5 years

**1915:** 54.5 years

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html>>, Table 96. Data pertain to 2005.  
(Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*; data pertain to 1967 and 1915.)

## Working Women

Percentage of women in the labor force, age 16 and older (10 and older for 1915).

**2006:** 59%

**1967:** 41%

**1915:** 23%

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html>>, Table 585. Data pertain to 2004. (Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*; data pertain to 1967 and 1910.)

## Education

Percentage of the population, age 25 and older, who had at least a high school diploma.

**2006:** 85.2%

**1967:** 51.1%

**1915:** 13.5%

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>> Data pertain to 2004 and 1967. <[http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d04/tables/dt04\\_008.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d04/tables/dt04_008.asp)> Data pertain to 1910.

## Earnings

**2006:** \$34,926 and \$23,546

Median wage and salary income in 2005 for male and female wage and salary workers, respectively. <[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/perinc/new10\\_000.htm](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/perinc/new10_000.htm)>

**1967:** \$5,974 and \$2,295 (\$29,589 and \$11,367 in 2005 dollars)

Median wage and salary income for male and female wage and salary workers, respectively. <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/histinc/p53ar.html>>

**1915:** \$687 (Constant dollar figure not available.)

Average annual earnings for workers (excluding farm labor). (Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*)

## Names

The most popular baby names for boys and girls, respectively.

**2006:** Jacob and Emily

**1967:** Michael and Lisa

**1915:** John and Mary

(Source: Social Security Administration, at <<http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/>> Data pertain to 2005, 1967 and 1915.)

## Our Love Affair with the Motor Vehicle

Number of motor vehicle registrations.

**2006:** 237.2 million

**1967:** 98.9 million

**1915:** 2.5 million

(Sources: *Upcoming Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007*; data pertain to 2004 and 1967. <[http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995\\_2000.html](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995_2000.html)>, 1999 edition, Table 1439.)

## Safer on our Roads

**2006:** 42,643

Number of traffic fatalities in 2003. This amounted to 1.5 fatalities per every 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

**1967:** 51,559

Number of traffic fatalities. This amounted to 5 fatalities for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

**1915:** 6,779

Number of traffic fatalities. This amounted to 35 fatalities for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

(Sources: *Upcoming Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007*; <[http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995\\_2000.html](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995_2000.html)>, 1999 edition, Table 1439, <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html>>, Table 1086.)

## The Military

Active-duty military personnel.

**2006:** 1.4 million

**1967:** 3.4 million

**1915:** 174 thousand

(Sources: *Upcoming Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007*. Data pertains to 2005. <[http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995\\_2000.html](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-1995_2000.html)>, 1999 edition, Table 1444. Data pertain to 1967 and 1915.)

## Down on the Farm

Number of farms.

**2006:** 2.1 million

**1967:** 3.2 million

**1915:** 6.5 million

(Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service at <<http://www.usda.gov/nass/nass/>>, data pertain to 2005, 1967 and 1915.)

Sources for introductory facts: <www.bls.gov>  
<<http://www.1960sflashback.com/1967/Economy.asp>>, <<http://local.aaca.org/bntc/1915.htm>>,  
<<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/gdu/gasdiesel.asp>>,  
<<http://www.census.gov/const/www/newressalesindex.html>>, and  
<<http://www.tvparty.com/fall67.html>>.

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**Editor’s note:** Some of the preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau’s Public Information Office at 301-763-3030; fax 301-457-3670; or e-mail <[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)>.